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Public Hearing
Human Services Committee
Testimony in Favor of Raised Bill 5437
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Greetings Senator Slossberg, Representative Abercrombie and members of the Human Services Committee. My name is Melissa Marshall. I live in West Hartford and I'm here today in my capacity as Coordinator of the Connecticut Cross Disability Lifespan Alliance, a coalition representing people from all disability groups. I urge you to support HB 5437 with the substitute language proposed by Sheldon Taubman of New haven Legal Assistance and other advocates.

Numerous members of the CT Cross Disability Alliance are low income, have disabilities and are forced to rely on Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) that is administered by DSS. Without it they have no access to primary care doctors or specialists.

It is no secret that the transportation provided by LogistiCare, a Georgia-based contractor, is highly problematic. Once again, I refer to Sheldon Toubman' testimony. Alliance members often miss critical doctor's appointments because their LogistiCare transportation is so late that doctor's cannot see them or because transportation never shows up at all. Other times they wait for long periods sometimes exposed to the elements for transportation to pick them up from appointments. This is particularly an issue for those who use wheelchairs and need wheelchair accessible transportation.

Much of this was documented in the 2014 Mercer report, commissioned by DSS.

It is our hope that DSS can negotiate the the contract with LogistiCare, the current contractor, by October 1, 2016 to provide adequate services and if that fails to issue an RFP by December 1, 2016

Please consider Raised Bill 5437 with the proposed substitute language favorably.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.